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Peacebuilding Commission
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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission mission to the Central African Republic, 10-15 October 2011

I. Main findings and key issues

1. A delegation of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, headed by the Chair of the configuration, Jan Grauls, undertook a field visit to the Central African Republic from 10 to 15 October 2011. The delegation was composed of representatives from Bangladesh, Belgium, the Central African Republic, France, Gabon, the European Union and the Peacebuilding Support Office. The terms of reference of the mission, approved by the configuration, are attached to the present report.

2. The delegation was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the heads of section of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) and met with the Head of State, the Prime Minister, the Minister of State for Planning, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister in charge of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the Minister of Justice, the President of the National Assembly and the National Mediator. It also met with the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee, the Security Sector Reform Sectoral Committee, the Peacebuilding Fund Steering Committee, the Committee of External Partners (COPESPOD), African ambassadors, the Head of the European Union delegation and representatives of civil society. In addition, the delegation participated in the opening session of the consultations on justice and the rule of law in the Central African Republic in the National Assembly, organized by Parliamentarians for Global Action, where the Chair made a statement. The delegation also visited Ngaraba central prison, in Bangui, and undertook a field visit to N'Délé, in the north-west.

3. Regarding the security situation, the delegation was briefed on the recent signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement and the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix, the only main rebel group remaining outside the peace process, which is currently expected to sign the Libreville Comprehensive Peace Agreement and join the

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disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process soon. The delegation also learned that the well-equipped Front populaire pour le redressement, a Chadian militia led by Baba Laddé, currently constitutes the main security threat. Negotiations between Baba Laddé and the Governments of the Central African Republic and Chad regarding his repatriation to Chad have not yielded any results and Baba Laddé has recruited new fighters, both national and foreign elements belonging to different ethnic groups, in the Central African Republic. The Lords Resistance Army (LRA) also constitutes a threat to the population, especially in the south-east, although the Central African Republic authorities claim that its nuisance capacity has been reduced. The African Union strategy to eradicate LRA has yet to be implemented.

4. As far as the presence of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) in the centre and north of the country is concerned, the Government of the Central African Republic expressed its confidence that the strengthening of the Central African Armed Forces should allow for the retreat of the Mission within a two-year time frame. While the country's ownership of the security situation should be encouraged, representatives of the international community expressed their concern about a possible security vacuum when the current mandate of MICOPAX expires in 2013. The Head of State, however, left the door open for an extension of the mandate.

5. In accordance with the terms of reference, the Chair reminded the Central African authorities of the commitments of the Government, announced by the Prime Minister in his general political declaration in the National Assembly in May 2011 and reiterated at the partners' round table in Brussels in June 2011, in terms of electoral reform, the rule of law, good governance and the fight against corruption. The Chair also referred to the narrowing of the political space since the 2011 elections and stressed the need for broad consultations with all political forces and civil society. Given the ruling party's large parliamentary majority, the international community feels that it should build bridges and allow the opposition freedom of assembly and expression. The Chair stated that the Government would undertake concrete steps towards the implementation of its commitments before the Security Council briefing on the situation in the country in December 2011, as this would allow the Council to take note of those steps in a presidential statement and would increase the goodwill of the international community to continue to assist the Central African Republic.

6. The Central African Republic authorities explained that the political situation was being consolidated with the completion of the 2011 electoral cycle, which had been conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner and had given the ruling party a large majority. They confirmed that the announced reforms would be implemented in due course and concurred that the Security Council meeting in December would be a good opportunity to take stock of positive developments. The Prime Minister explained that the lessons learned from the 2011 electoral cycle and the experience of neighbouring countries would be taken into account in the reform of the electoral code and the establishment of a permanent technical secretariat to prepare future electoral processes. Both the Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly reassured the delegation that broad and inclusive consultations would be held in that regard but did not commit to a timetable. The Head of State claimed to be open to working with a responsible opposition, which unfortunately,

according to him, did not exist. The Prime Minister also announced that the Committee on Combating Corruption had completed its broad consultations with all layers of society and would hold a national seminar in mid-November in order to develop a national anti-corruption strategy.

7. The delegation also discussed the relationship between the Central African Republic and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), after a mission by IMF to the country in July 2011 discovered undocumented spending in 2010. The purpose of the mission was to negotiate a successor arrangement under the Extended Credit Facility, the previous Extended Credit Facility arrangement having expired in September 2010. The results were so disappointing, in part owing to the fact that the electoral period had disrupted the proper management of public finances, that a new programme was currently not an option. The Chair stressed the importance of returning to macroeconomic stability and normalizing the relationship with IMF to restore the confidence of other donors and recommended that the Head of State send a high-level delegation to Washington, D.C., soon to do so. He also explained that the failure of the Finance Minister to participate in the fall 2011 annual meeting of IMF and his subsequent letters demanding a new standby agreement were not well received by IMF. The Head of State and Prime Minister took note of those suggestions.

8. The delegation also extensively discussed progress in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. During the meeting with the Steering Committee, the Minister in charge of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration explained that the disarmament and demobilization stages had been completed for approximately 4,800 combatants in the north-west. The expected signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement by the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix would add approximately 3,000 well-armed combatants to be disarmed in the north-east. It was further explained by the Steering Committee that while the cost of the disarmament and demobilization stages to date had been covered by the Government from Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) funds, the Peacebuilding Fund and the United Nations Development Programme Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, there were currently no funds available for the implementation of the National Reintegration Strategy, which had been adopted in July 2011. The current cost of reinsertion and reintegration activities amounted to $19 million but would rise to $25 million to include the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix. In addition, a request for the funding of the operations of the National Reintegration Coordinator by the Peacebuilding Fund in the amount of $1.9 million had been submitted to the Secretary-General. The Chair encouraged the Steering Committee to come up with mutually agreed numbers for the cost of the National Reintegration Strategy and announced that he would undertake efforts to mobilize resources in that respect.

9. On security sector reform, BINUCA and international partners stressed the need to develop a realistic medium- and long-term national security sector reform strategy rather than a "shopping list" mainly focused on military needs and expressed their willingness to support the Central African authorities in developing a comprehensive national security sector reform strategy. Such a strategy should consist of more than simply equipment and barracks; it should include training, vetting, ethnic balance, military justice, parliamentary oversight and payment of salaries and encompass other actors involved in the provision of security. Progress in security sector reform had stalled over the past year owing to a lack of

coordination within the Government of the Central African Republic and the unwillingness of the National Security Sector Reform Coordinator to communicate with the international community. The Head of State informed the delegation that the Government had done its part but was waiting for the international community to help. He admitted that the national security forces were unable to effectively tackle the many threats of armed groups, often composed of foreign elements. He stated that with the many millions of dollars spent on successive peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic, the national security forces could have been significantly reinforced and could have solved many problems without the limitations of the mandates of peacekeeping missions. In the meantime, the Central African Republic authorities made do with the limited means at their disposal.

10. The Minister of National Defence explained during the meeting with the Security Sector Reform Sectoral Committee that following the 2008 national security sector reform seminar, short-term activities had been implemented satisfactorily, in accordance with an agreed timetable. Military personnel had retired in order to rejuvenate the armed forces, and barracks were being constructed in several parts of the country with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund in order to create a garrisoned army better prepared to address different threats. The Government was open to integrating demobilized ex-combatants into the security forces while respecting the ethnic balance and appropriate size of those forces. A code of military justice was under preparation. Following the (failed) October 2009 security sector reform round table, at which 21 projects had been presented, the Government had reduced its list of priority projects to 10 projects, which had been incorporated in the country's poverty reduction strategy paper for 2011-2015, and expected financial support from the international community to cover the estimated cost of $55 million to implement those projects, essentially consisting in the material reinforcement of the armed forces.

11. As far as the implementation of the projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund is concerned, during a meeting with the Peacebuilding Fund Steering Committee, the Central African authorities reiterated their appreciation for the significant resources made available to the country's projects, but also informed the delegation of their frustration with the slow disbursement, complex procedures and high overhead costs. The representative of the Peacebuilding Fund explained that while the Fund's procedures required it to work through United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the main objective was to benefit the Central African Republic and not to reinforce the capacity of the United Nations system. The 7 per cent overhead cost was a general rule that applied to all United Nations agencies in every country. Civil society representatives complained that their priorities were not sufficiently taken on board when deciding on the Fund's priority projects but were confronted with the fact that they were not sufficiently organized and lacked the capacity to communicate and defend their rights with one voice. During the field visit to N'Délé, the delegation visited a legal clinic operated by the Danish Refugee Council and funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. From the mission, it is clear that the security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes need additional funding. Advocacy efforts should therefore be made to get a third allocation from the Fund.

12. In terms of justice and the rule of law, the delegation visited Ngaraba central prison, in Bangui, and took stock of the poor living conditions of the inmates. The warden explained that the lack of daytime electricity and recurrent interruptions of

the supply of running water were serious problems in the management of the prison. The Chair followed up on the letter he addressed to the Minister of Justice and learned that many inmates were still in provisional detention for much longer than legally allowed. The sanitary conditions in the prison had yet to be improved, although the arrival of mosquito nets at the initiative of the Chair was a positive development. At the end of the mission, the Chair briefly discussed these issues with the Minister of Justice, who informed the Chair that some detainees in prolonged provisional detention had already been released and that he would follow up on the other issues.

13. The delegation was also briefed by the Head of the European Union delegation on the state of implementation of the development hubs programme in support of the Government's efforts to eradicate poverty. The first three hubs would be located in Bozoum, Sibut and Bambari, where Government infrastructure, economic infrastructure, such as markets, bus stations and boreholes, and feeder roads would be constructed and maintained by the local population. Tenders were currently being launched, but it was hard to find qualified local contractors. Ex-combatants, along with regular citizens, would be encouraged to seek employment in these labour-intensive construction projects. However, the project did not include any job creation incentive specifically aimed at ex-combatants. Training would be provided through international non-governmental organizations to civil society organizations. The efforts of the European Union should be complemented by the Governments and other donors. National ownership of the project was still weak despite the existence of a ministry in charge of it.

14. The delegation discussed issues pertaining to national reconciliation with the National Mediator, who highlighted both the recent successes and the main challenges faced by his team. He expressed the need to further consolidate his institutional mandate and proposed to create an early warning network by deploying members of his team to selected prisons and hospitals responsible for reporting instances of conflict-related human rights violations. The Mediator also reiterated the urgency of financing the reintegration of demobilized ex-combatants, notably through targeted job creation. Failure to do so, he commented, might undermine the current mediation efforts.

15. The Chair also discussed the follow-up of the Brussels round table with the Minister of State for Planning, who informed the Chair that the second poverty reduction strategy paper would be finalized by November after the last round of comments from partners. The Government of the Central African Republic was still planning a follow-up meeting with donors in Bangui, probably in early 2012. The Chair advised the Minister to come up with a realistic priority action plan covering the most urgent needs for the first years of the five-year period covered by the second poverty reduction strategy paper.

II. Concluding observations

16. The conclusions and recommendations of the delegation of the Peacebuilding Commission that visited the Central African Republic are set out below.

Increased importance of the regional context and dimension

17. More than ever, the Peacebuilding Commission recognizes the importance of the regional dimension of the peacebuilding process in the Central African Republic. The active engagement of and, at times, critical role played by some of the regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union, CEMAC and ECCAS, have to be tapped into and strengthened.

18. On the other hand, two of the remaining sources of insecurity in the Central African Republic, namely, the threats posed by LRA in the south-east and the Chadian group led by Baba Laddé (although a ceasefire agreement has been signed with the latter), are regional in nature. Again, effective cooperation with neighbouring countries facing similar threats to their security needs to be strengthened. The work of the National Mediator in this context has proven quite successful in recent months, and the strengthening of the Mediator's good offices merits consideration.

Reintegration

19. The Peacebuilding Commission delegation reiterates the importance of moving quickly on the reintegration component of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in the Central African Republic. With a considerable number of disarmed and demobilized combatants waiting, finalizing the reintegration strategy considered and approved by the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee and resolving the issues related to the funding required, its sources and the mechanisms to be set up to manage its disbursement have become urgent.

20. The delegation also stresses the importance of examining ongoing and planned programmes and activities of various international partners with a view to assessing the feasibility of creating stronger synergies between those activities in the area of economic revitalization and the reintegration component of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. One such example, which on the face of it shows considerable promise, is the European Union development hubs programme, which can potentially create employment opportunities for ex-combatants in various secondary cities of the country. Similarly, the possible realignment of ongoing activities funded by the World Bank could be considered with a view to facilitating the reintegration of ex-combatants into host communities, many of which were affected by conflict in past years.

Security sector reform

21. The delegation took note of the continued apparent lack of an overall medium- to long-term national strategy on security sector reform in the Central African Republic. At present the reform revolves around a list of 10 seemingly randomly selected projects, with a price tag of around $60 million. This approach seems disconnected from the goal of building an effective, ethnically diverse and well-trained republican army. The delegation supports the efforts of BINUCA to provide advice and technical expertise to the national counterpart and encourages the Government of the Central African Republic to maintain open dialogue with the international community.

22. The delegation expressed concern about the expiration of the mandate of the subregional MICOPAX force in 2013 and encourages the Government of the Central

African Republic to ensure that the withdrawal of MICOPAX does not result in a security vacuum. An assessment could be conducted in 2012 to analyse the situation at that time, and steps should be taken to ensure the possible extension of the MICOPAX mandate should the analysis warrant it.

International Monetary Fund

23. The delegation is concerned about the findings of the recent mission to the Central African Republic by the IMF. The delegation strongly encourages the Government of the Central African Republic to act swiftly and to provide IMF with the relevant justifications, with a view to overcoming the current situation, resulting in the resumption of operations of IMF and the World Bank in the country.

24. The delegation welcomes the steps taken by the Government of the Central African Republic in recent months to address the findings in the report of IMF and the concrete steps taken in some instances to fight corruption and the misuse of public funds. The delegation encourages the Central African authorities to continue to address the problem of corruption head on by investigating allegations and by taking the necessary measures permitted by law.

Role of the international community

25. The delegation notes with some concern the prevailing opinion in some circles that the international community has not been sufficiently active in its support of national initiatives, resulting in delays, such as in the country's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration or security sector reform programmes. Recent positive developments, notably in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as a result of a more proactive approach by the Government of the Central African Republic, are very encouraging and demonstrate national ownership. The delegation is of the view that those developments underline the importance of effective political will, which had not been witnessed before, and are critical to ensuring a more proactive role of the international community in these areas. In this regard, the Peacebuilding Commission welcomes the interest expressed by a number of potential new partners at the June 2011 partners' round table, including Australia, Japan, Morocco and Turkey.

26. The delegation reaffirms its commitment to continue to stand by the Central African Republic, as have a number of long-standing bilateral and multilateral development partners throughout the years. The Peacebuilding Commission and the international community present in Bangui call upon the Government of the Central African Republic to set realistic and attainable goals, thus managing expectations.

Future engagement

27. The Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic (PBC/3/CAF/7), adopted in 2009, will expire at the end of 2011. The Peacebuilding Commission calls upon all relevant partners to participate constructively in the deliberations of the Central African Republic configuration in the coming weeks and months, which are aimed at defining the nature and scope of the Commission's engagement with the Central African Republic for the coming years on the basis of the country's second poverty reduction strategy paper. The Commission looks forward to the timely distribution of the final version of the second poverty reduction strategy paper.

Annex I

Terms of reference of the field visit of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Central African Republic (10-15 October 2011)

I. Objectives of the visit

1. The overall objectives of the field visit are:

(a) To continue genuine dialogue and cooperation with the Government of the Central African Republic and other relevant actors in the country's peacebuilding process;

(b) To assess the progress made in the implementation of the key peacebuilding priorities in the Central African Republic identified in the country's Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding and other existing peacebuilding frameworks and on the basis of the second review of the framework, informally adopted in New York on 13 September 2011, and continue to update the framework in the light of changes on the ground;

(c) To continue discussions on the future engagement between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Central African Republic after the expiration of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, including collaboration with United Nations operational agencies, funds and programmes at the country level.

2. During the field visit, the delegation specifically aims:

(a) To enquire about the status of the country's second poverty reduction strategy paper;

(b) To assess the progress made to revive and sustain the political dialogue with the opposition and correct any electoral deficiencies for future elections, in order to take due account of the efforts made in this regard towards future engagement with the newly elected authorities and other national stakeholders on furthering the country's peacebuilding agenda;

(c) To assess the progress made in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform processes, with a focus on the reintegration strategy and the elaboration of a national medium- and long-term security sector reform strategy;

(d) To assess the progress made in the implementation of the development hubs programme and identify ways in which the Peacebuilding Commission can lend its support;

(e) To engage with the national counterpart to identify actual or envisaged stumbling blocks in the country's peacebuilding process and ways to overcome them;

(f) To assess the improvements in the conditions of detention at Ngaraba central prison in Bangui and identify the measures taken in response to the letter of the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to the Minister of Justice and ways to strengthen the rule of law and the capacity of the prison system.

II. Key messages on peacebuilding priorities

A. General messages

3. The general messages of the delegation are:

(a) **National ownership**. The Peacebuilding Commission remains fully committed to the principle of national ownership by the Government of the Central African Republic, which is best demonstrated through the development of a shared and inclusive vision for the country's future through peacebuilding and development;

(b) **Commitment to the peace accords**. The Peacebuilding Commission calls upon the Government of the Central African Republic to urge all those involved in the peacebuilding process to show commitment to the peace accords and cease all hostilities, such as those seen in the north around Bria in September, and to urge all groups to return to their agreed positions, engage in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and participate in the political process;

(c) **National reconciliation**. Following the 2011 presidential and legislative elections and their outcome, the Peacebuilding Commission encourages national authorities to work with all parties (majority and opposition) to lay the foundation for open and inclusive consultations, opening up the political space. The international community hopes that the creation of a forum for exchange among all political parties would create the conditions necessary for progress on other fronts.

B. Future engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission

4. The Peacebuilding Commission looks forward to continuing genuine dialogue with all relevant national, regional and international partners on how to further its engagement with the Central African Republic and on the basis of the country's second poverty reduction strategy paper.

5. As a first step in defining the future engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission in the Central African Republic, the delegation will:

(a) Enquire about the intentions of the Government regarding the follow-up of the partners' round table in Brussels on 17 June 2011 in terms of prioritization, definition of a timeline for implementation and outreach to existing and potential donors, taking into account the current situation in the country;

(b) Enquire about a possible follow-up event to be held in Bangui and the support required from the United Nations system in that regard;

(c) Explore future ways on how the United Nations can further enhance its support in the very challenging circumstances and enquire about how the Peacebuilding Commission can best assist and enable the United Nations activities on the ground;

(d) Enquire about how the United Nations Peacebuilding and Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF+) and its action plan are being articulated around the second poverty reduction strategy paper;

(e) Enquire about the assessment by international partners of the situation in the Central African Republic, explore how to build upon progress made and foster synergies of international efforts in the peacebuilding process;

(f) Enquire about the mechanisms established at the country level to strengthen the coordination and collaboration, as appropriate, among international partners, including the United Nations;

(g) Enquire about the intentions of potential partners.

C. Security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

6. Security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration remain a focus of the attention of the Peacebuilding Commission, in particular following the holding in June 2011 of the partners' round table in Brussels. In this regard, the delegation will:

(a) Enquire about the Government's intention to move forward the two processes and the ways in which the United Nations is providing assistance to the Government in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform;

(b) Encourage and convene discussions and the exchange of experiences in these two areas, in particular from countries from the Global South and those who have a similar experience in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform processes;

(c) Discuss the importance of pursuing efforts towards the development of a medium- to long-term national security sector reform strategy, with linkages to other peacebuilding priorities, such as good governance, the rule of law and the reform of the justice sector. The development of a national medium- and long-term security sector reform strategy with the technical assistance and support of international experts, in particular from the Global South, remains of great interest to the Peacebuilding Commission.

7. The Peacebuilding Commission continues to be interested in the reintegration dimension of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, the details of which need to be further outlined, particularly the issues related to its funding and disbursement mechanism and linkages to ongoing activities funded by the international community in the area of community recovery.

8. The Peacebuilding Commission is interested in the details of the means to collect the most dangerous weapons used by ex-combatants of armed groups in the framework of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme.

9. The Peacebuilding Commission is closely following the ongoing process of the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix joining the Comprehensive Libreville Peace Agreements and consequently joining the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the ongoing talks with the Chadian rebel group Front populaire pour le redressement. The Commission is also following the efforts of the Government to implement a ceasefire between the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix and the Union des forces démocratiques pour le

rassemblement in the light of recent fighting between the two groups in the north-eastern part of the country.

10. The Peacebuilding Commission is interested in the efforts made to increase transparency in the use of funds for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, since the initiatives taken so far hardly match the contributions provided by the international community.

D. Good governance, human rights and the rule of law

11. The Peacebuilding Commission is following with great interest the post-electoral developments in the Central African Republic, including as they relate to the recommendations put forward by the Constitutional Court and accepted by the Government, namely, the revision of the electoral code, the computerization of the voters' registry and the establishment of a permanent and independent body in charge of organizing future elections.

12. The Peacebuilding Commission also attaches importance to the progress made in the area of enforcement of the rule of law, especially with regard to the implementation of the 10-year plan of reform of the justice sector.

13. During the field visit, the delegation will:

(a) Enquire about the assessment by women's organizations of the recently concluded electoral process and the resulting participation of women in the Government and in the National Assembly;

(b) Enquire about the current human rights situation and follow up on the performance of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the Ombudsman;

(c) Underscore the need for investigation, by both the Government and the international community, of reported serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrest, looting and torture by armed entities;

(d) Commend the Government of the Central African Republic on its recent move regarding the justice system and further emphasize the protection and promotion of human rights as the basis for sustainable peace and reconciliation;

(e) Encourage the Government to develop policy directives to address human rights violations linked to witchcraft, gender-based violence, domestic violence and gross human rights violations committed by the armed forces;

(f) Stress the need to place the Ecole nationale de la magistrature under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and not under the Ministry of Defence;

(g) Underline the need for good governance and transparency in the management of natural resources in order to turn mineral exploitation into an asset for economic development for all people of the country;

(h) Stress the importance of promoting the inclusiveness of the political settlement and work towards increasing the participation of excluded groups, such as ex-combatants and youth, in the political process.

E. Children and armed conflict and sexual violence in conflict

14. During the field visit, the delegation will:

(a) Welcome recent steps taken towards developing action plans with the Armée populaire pour la restauration de la démocratie and the Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix to end the recruitment and use of children and encourage finalizing these démarches and engaging other armed groups listed in the report of the Secretary-General on the Central African Republic to the Security Council (S/2011/311) for the purpose of completing an action plan. The upcoming visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, in November 2011 will be an occasion to take stock of these efforts and to support other child protection initiatives in the country;

(b) Enquire about steps taken by the Government, civil society and the international community to ensure the protection of children, in particular the long-term reintegration of children separated from armed groups;

(c) Enquire about the current situation of sexual violence and violence against children in the country and how this situation is being addressed and discuss how the Peacebuilding Commission can best provide assistance in this regard;

(d) Enquire about how the United Nations is supporting the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (see S/AC.51/2011/5).

15. The Peacebuilding Commission is also maintaining its focus on the protection of women and on efforts by the Government, civil society and the international community in that regard. The planned visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, in late 2011 will further highlight the importance of the issue.

16. In line with the spirit of national ownership, the Peacebuilding Commission can assist the Government in identifying efforts in the area of promoting women's and children's rights and encourage their mainstreaming within the national peacebuilding strategies. The Commission should also explore ways to marshal resources for capacity-building to core Government functions dealing with women's and children's rights, including programmes to sensitize the Government apparatus in these two areas.

F. Development hubs

17. During the field visit, the delegation will:

(a) Ask for a progress report from the European Union, which is taking the lead, on the implementation of the development hubs programme;

(b) Identify entry points for the Commission's involvement in and support to the development hubs programme, focusing on those elements of the programme which would contribute to peacebuilding in the country;

(c) Strengthen existing and identify other possible synergies between the development hubs programme and the country's second poverty reduction strategy paper.

III. Composition of the delegation

18. The delegation was composed of the following members:

Jan Grauls, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations and Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission

Charles-Armel Doubane, Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations

Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Michel Régis Onanga Ndiaye, Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations

Amador Sánchez Rico, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Frédéric Jung, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

Filip Vanden Bulcke, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations

Brian J. Williams, Peacebuilding Support Office

Alessandra Trabattoni, Peacebuilding Support Office

Annex II

Programme of the visit

Time	*Activity*
Monday, 10 October 2011	
1515-1545	Security briefing
1545-1630	Briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
1630-1730	Briefing by the section chiefs of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA)
1730-1830	Meeting with the United Nations country team
Tuesday, 11 October 2011	
0930-1025	Meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs
1030-1145	Meeting with the Prime Minister
1430-1530	Meeting with the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Steering Committee
1600-1700	Meeting with the Security Sector Reform Sectoral Committee
Wednesday, 12 October 2011	
0930-1015	Meeting with the Minister of State for Planning and with the Co-Chairs of the Peacebuilding Fund Joint Steering Committee
1015-1215	Meeting with the Peacebuilding Fund Joint Steering Committee
1230-1330	Meeting with the President of the National Assembly
1600-1700	Meeting with the Minister of Health
1715-1810	Meeting with the BINUCA Education, Social Affairs and Gender Adviser
Thursday, 13 October 2011	
0900-1115	Opening session of the consultations on justice and the rule of law in the Central African Republic, Parliamentarians for Global Action
1145-1230	Visit to Ngaraba central prison, Bangui

Time	*Activity*
1430-1530	Meeting with the Committee of External Partners (COPESPOD) and forum of African ambassadors
1600-1645	Meeting with civil society representatives
1715-1800	Meeting with the National Mediator
1815-1930	Presentation of the development hubs programme, European Union
Friday, 14 October 2011	
0930-1500	Visit to N'Délé
1800	Meeting with the Head of State
Saturday, 15 October 2011	
	Departure of the delegation